

NORTHERN UNITED SOCCER CLUB CODE OF CONDUCT

Updated August 2013

Introduction

The Northern United Soccer Club (NUSC) is a community organization that sponsors youth soccer activity emphasizing fun, fair play, and sportsmanship. Our goal is to enhance every participant's enjoyment of his or her soccer experience. To better achieve that goal, we are outlining a Code of conduct of all of the players, coaches, parents involved in Northern United Soccer. The Code of Conduct is a written contract between the parents, players and coaches to abide by the rules and regulations of the game as well as maintaining a cooperative attitude and uphold the ideals of fair play and sportsmanship. This contract is more than just paper, it is the essence of our goals and objectives and thus, adherence to it is of primary importance.

Maintaining a Positive Attitude

Players, coaches and parents are expected to show a positive, respectful attitude for everyone involved in the sport. Criticism and disrespect for officials, opponents, coaches or fans undermines the purpose of the sport and brings into the game stresses beyond the competition. It contributes to behavior not keeping with the spirit of the game.

Setting a Good Example

Each person associated with the Northern United Soccer Club is accountable for his/her own behavior at all times around the field of play. Parents, coaches and other adults should remember that children are mimics-it is up to you to set good examples and to not tolerate those who do not.

The Northern United Soccer Club will not tolerate conduct which is detrimental to the sport, the participant or the community. Such conduct includes: Vulgarity by coaches, players or parents; harassment or belittling of officials, coaches or players; physical violence or the threat of physical violence toward anyone before, during or after a match, verbal abuse directed toward anyone before, during or after a match and the taunting of opposing players, coaches and parents. We require the utmost self-restraint on the part of players and especially adults.

In addition, violent play, rowdy behavior, verbal abuse, assault or similar behavior by any team sponsored by Northern United Soccer Club will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with NUSC, CDYSL, FIFA rules and regulations. Sometimes, NUSC teams participate in tournaments outside of the area. Players, coaches and parents behavior at hotels, motels, restaurants, should be such that it does not discredit, dishonor or create a negative impression of the Northern United Soccer Club.

A Good Relationship

The Officials

On a soccer field, the referee is the symbol of authority and often the target of criticism. The referee's job is a difficult one and all referees are human and they do make mistakes. Anytime you feel your team is being treated unfairly or you have an unqualified referee, talk to your coach after the game. Coaches are asked to tell the Coaching Director about problems that occur with officials.

The Coach

The primary responsibility of the coach is to coach and teach the children the game of soccer. However, he/she is responsible for the team's supporters but parents should not expect coaches to police the sidelines. Positive support for the team and coaches is encouraged. Northern United Soccer Club prides itself on the excellent sportsmanship of its teams and parents.

The Opponents

Players and coaches are required to maintain a sense of fair play and be respectful of opposing players, coaches and supporters at all times. Any action, which can be deemed disrespectful, will be punished under the guidelines of the violation section to this code of conduct. Sportsmanship begins with respect. Without opponents to play, the positive competitive environment, which can be a perfect classroom for the participant to learn the values of sport, is completely undermined.

Violations of the Code of Conduct

Currently, the Capital District Youth Soccer League guidelines, in conjunction with the Northern United Soccer Club Code of Conduct, set a minimum standard of discipline that is expected of players, coaches, and spectators. Northern United, in an effort to be a leader in this very difficult area, will set its own, tougher standards with respect to several key situations (i.e. ejections for fighting, dissent and/or verbal abuse). It is up to ALL of us: players, coaches, parents and administrators to ensure that these types of bad sportsmanship do not occur. Any questions or disputes concerning the violations of this code of conduct as listed below can be brought before the Northern United Soccer Club full board.

Player Conduct

1. Ejection – A player receiving a red card will be ejected from the game immediately and will not be able to participate in his/her team's next match. Repeated offenders could face further sanctions as determined by the NUSC full board.

2. Ejection for Violent Conduct-Serious Foul Play and Foul or Abusive Language – If a red card is issued to an NUSC player for one of these reasons and, in the opinion of that player’s coach, is definitely warranted, the player can be suspended from participating in a second (2) game. The coach may decide to extend the number of games the player is suspended based on the previous card history or on the action taken by the player that earned the card.

3. Caution For Dissent-If a yellow card (caution) is issued to an NUSC player for dissent and, in the opinion of the coach is a flagrant act, the NUSC player will be removed from the game and not return for the rest of the game.

4. Abuse-Players who are abusive of coaches, other players (including teammates) or the referee, may be banned from attending matches for one (1) week (at least one game) if their coach so desires. Coaches may also recommend further sanctions at an inquiry of the NUSC full board.

Player’s Code

Each child who registers to play is responsible (with parent’s help and encouragement) to attend all practices and games. We have a limited number of roster spots and the team is counting on each member to be there! Once you commit, you are an integral part of a team. You cannot withdraw unless injured.

1. Athletes who are participating on school sports teams or events should attend school functions as a first priority. Recreation, Little League, etc. will not take precedent. Please notify the coach prior to the game /practice that there is a conflict.

2. Each child/family is responsible for notifying the coach or team parent if unable to attend a practice or game. If there is not notification, the player may sit the first half of the next game. The second time it happens, the player will sit the entire game. A third time results in possible dismissal from the team. NO REFUND!

3. Each child needs to be to practices/games on time prepared to play (shin guards, cleats, athletic clothes or uniform, water bottle, and a soccer ball).

- Play for the fun of it, not just to please your parents or coach.
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with or complain about referee calls or decisions.
- Control your temper and most of all; resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.
- Concentrate on playing soccer and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort. Work equally hard for your team as for yourself.
- Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether it is your teams or your opponent’s.

- Treat all players, as you would like to be treated.
- Remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve skills and feel good. Don't be a showoff or a ball hog.
- Cooperate with your coaches, teammates, opponents and referees.
- Arrive in a timely manner to any NUSC function.
- Present self fully dressed for game or practice with proper equipment.

Parent/Spectator Conduct

1. Any parent or spectator who is ejected from the game by the referee will remove themselves from the sidelines and the area immediately. He/She will be banned from attending games for at least one week (at least one game) and can be banned longer if so determined by an inquiry of the NUSC full board.
2. Parents/spectators who are abusive of coaches, players or referees may be banned from attending matches for one week (at least one game) or longer if so determined by an inquiry of the NUSC full board.
3. If the parent shows up at the suspended game then the child will not play at that game.

Parent/Spectator Code

- Do not force an unwilling child to participate in sports.
- Remember children are involved in organized sports for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Teach your child to always play by the rules.
- Teach your child that hard work and honest effort are often more important than a victory.
- Help your child work toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game. Your child will be a winner, even in defeat.
- Do not ridicule or yell at your child for making a mistake or for losing a game.
- Set a good example. Children learn best by example.
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Do not publicly question referee judgment and never their honesty.
- Recognize the value and importance of a volunteer coaches, referees, and the officials and give them their due respect. Without them, there would be no soccer club to participate with.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal abuse and physical abuse from youth sporting activities.

Coach Conduct

1. Any coach ejected from the game must remove himself or herself from the sidelines immediately and cannot participate in their team's next match.

2. Coaches who are abusive of other coaches, players, or referees will be banned from attending matches for one week (at least one game) or longer if so determined by an inquiry of the NUSC full board.

Coach's Code

- Coaches are responsible for conduct of players, assistant coaches and spectators.
- Coaches shall control and have no part in verbal or physical abuse of players, referees, other coaches, and/or spectators at any time during NUSC functions.
- Referee support: Before, during and after a league match, all coaches/managers shall support and assist the referee in maintaining decorum on the field. The support does not prejudice the coach/manager's right to protest a match in the proper manner.
- Coaches are expected to lead their team to show off good sportsmanship during and following a game, such as a handshake, etc.
- Enthusiastically support and practice "Everyone Plays" and "Positive Coaching" philosophies of NUSC.
- Be reasonable in your demands on the young player's time, energy, enthusiasm and their performance on the soccer field.
- Ensure that your player's soccer experience is one of fun and enjoyment (winning is only part of it). Players should never be yelled at or ridiculed for making mistakes or losing a game.
- Set a good example and be generous with your praise when it is deserved. Children need a coach they can respect.
- Keep informed about sound principles of coaching, growth and development principles relating to children.
- Enlist the support of your team's parents in your efforts to instill the proper attitudes and values in the players.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Northern United Soccer Club or visit the Capital District Youth Soccer League web site at www.CDYSL.org